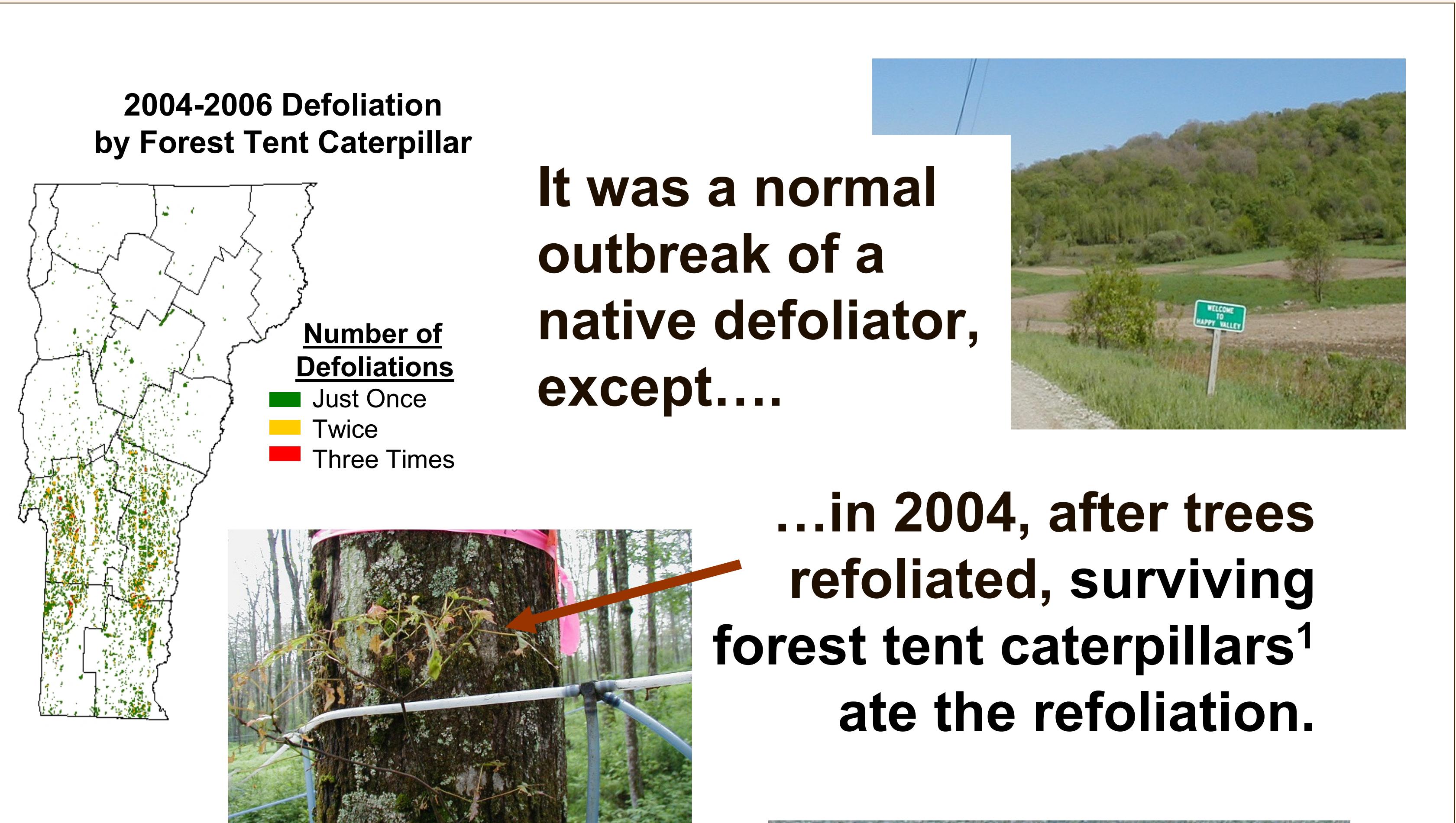


Forest Tent Caterpillar Evaluation in Vermont

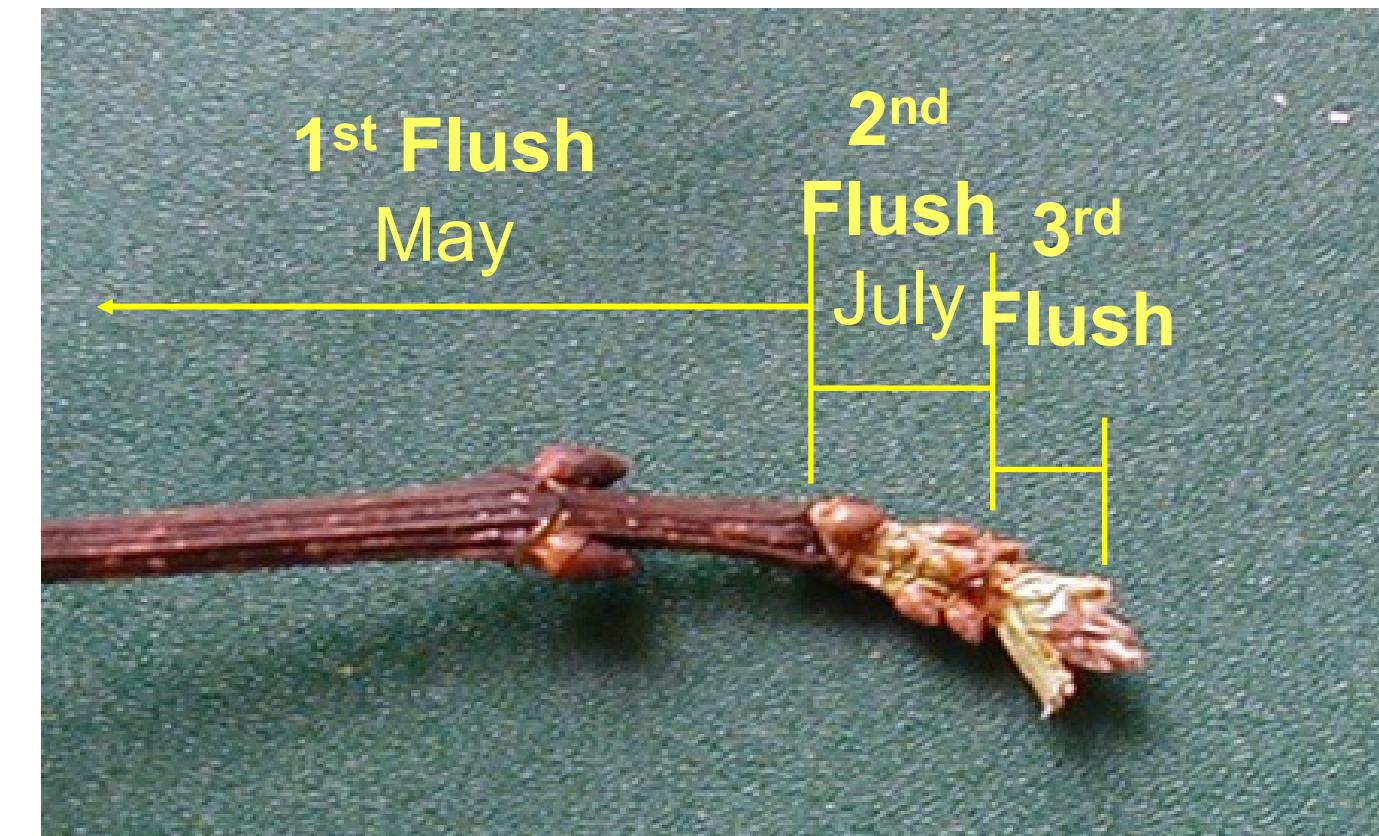
or

What Happens when Maples Three-foliate?

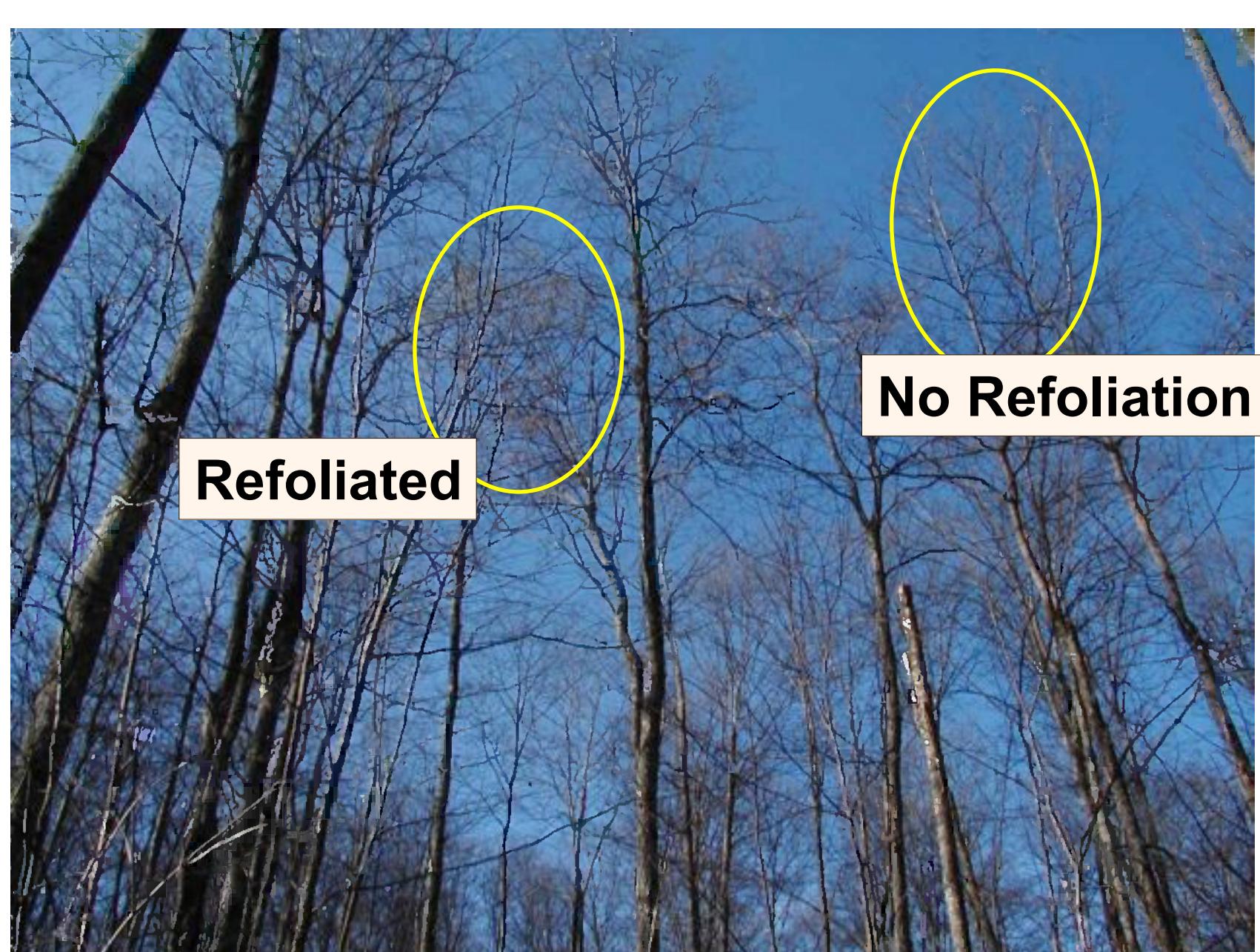
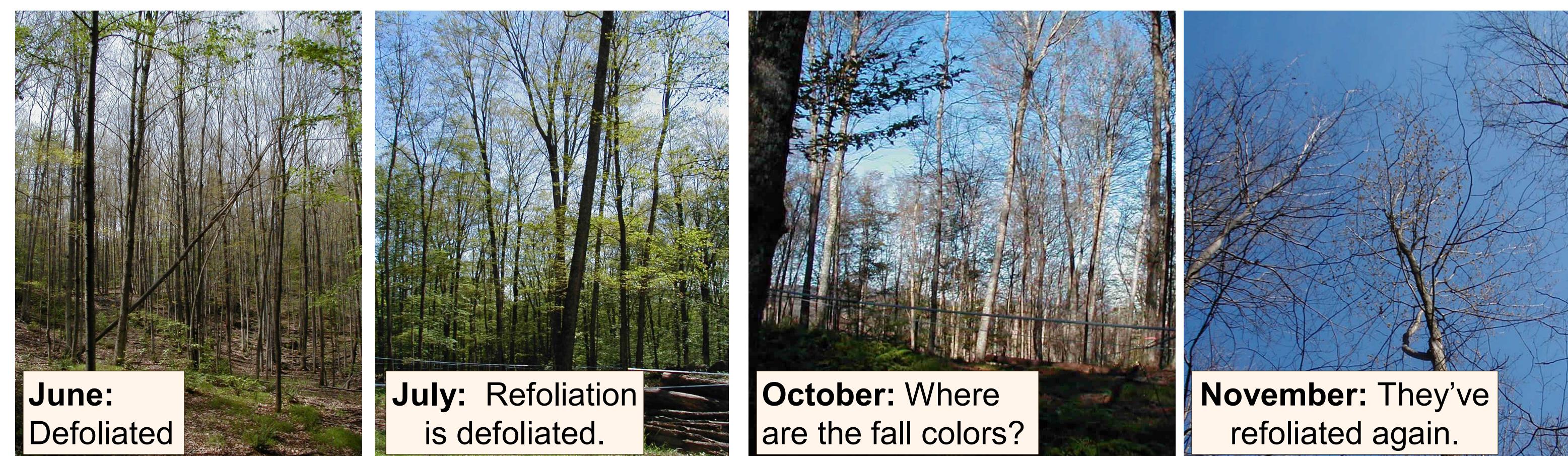
B. Burns, T. Hanson, S. Pfister, L. Lund, and J. Esden, Vermont Division of Forestry



Many trees refoliated again. By the end of the year, they had produced three flushes of foliage...



... but they had no leaves for most of the year.

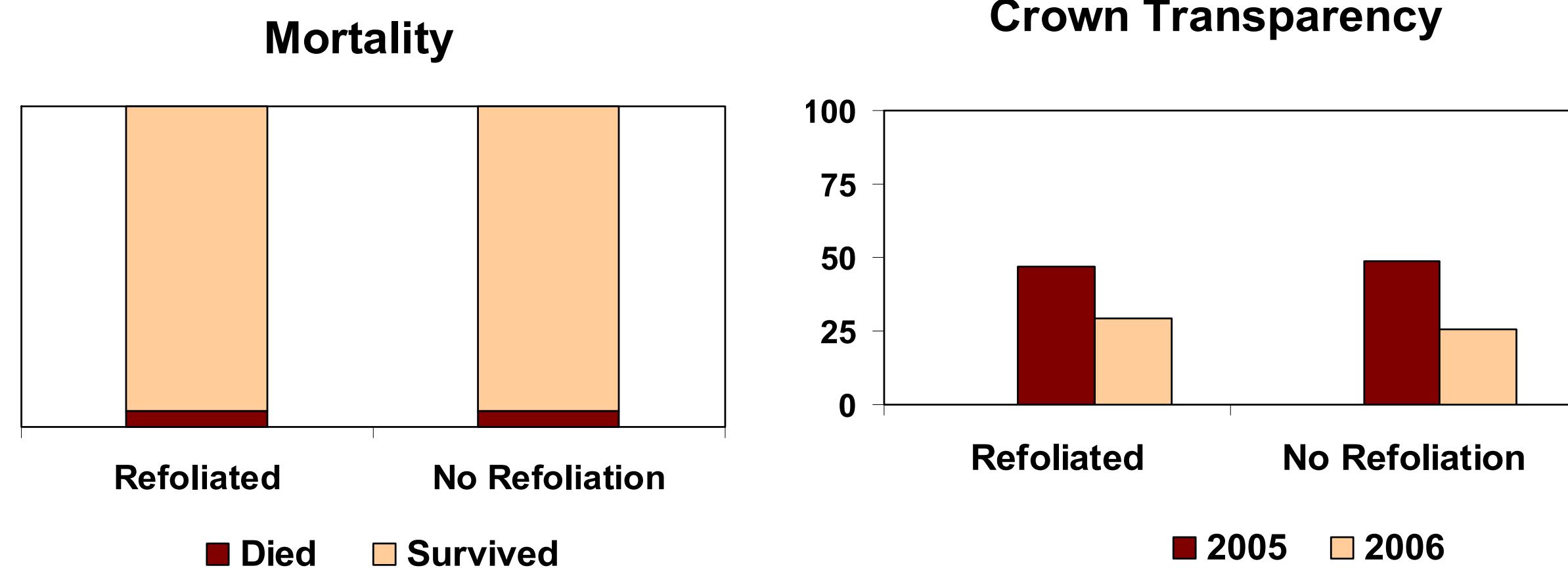


To evaluate the impact on tree health, we monitored four sugarbushes² over three growing seasons: two years of defoliation (2004-2005) and one year of recovery (2006).

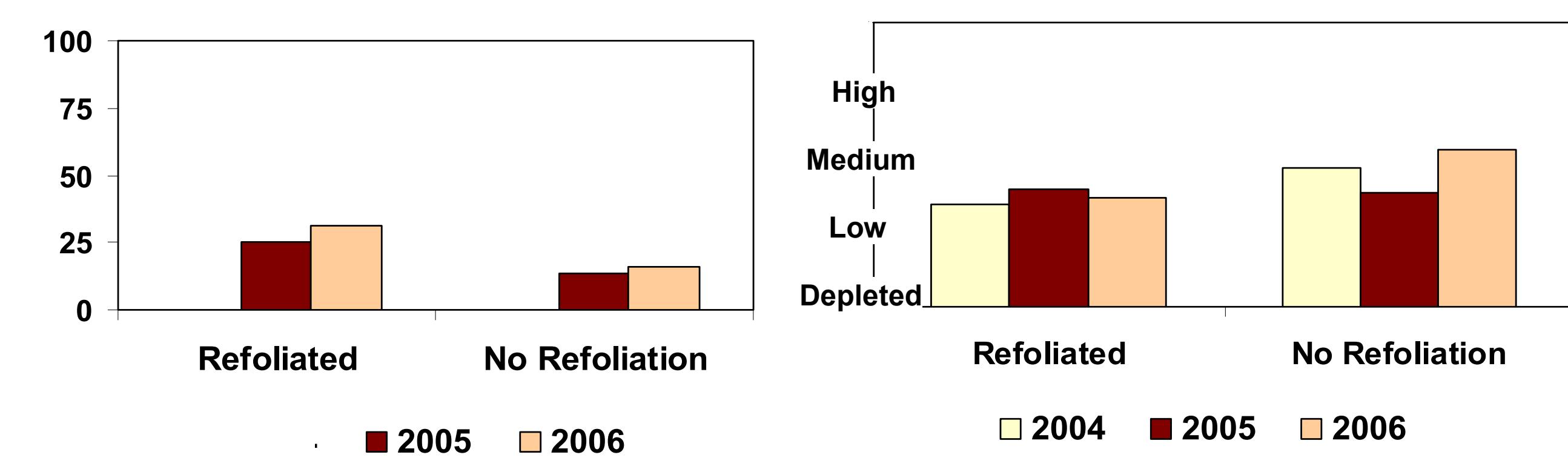
Crown condition and fall root starch were compared between sugar maples that had refoliated in fall 2004 and those that had no late-season refoliation.

Compared to sugar maples that had no late season refoliation, trees that refoliated in the fall...

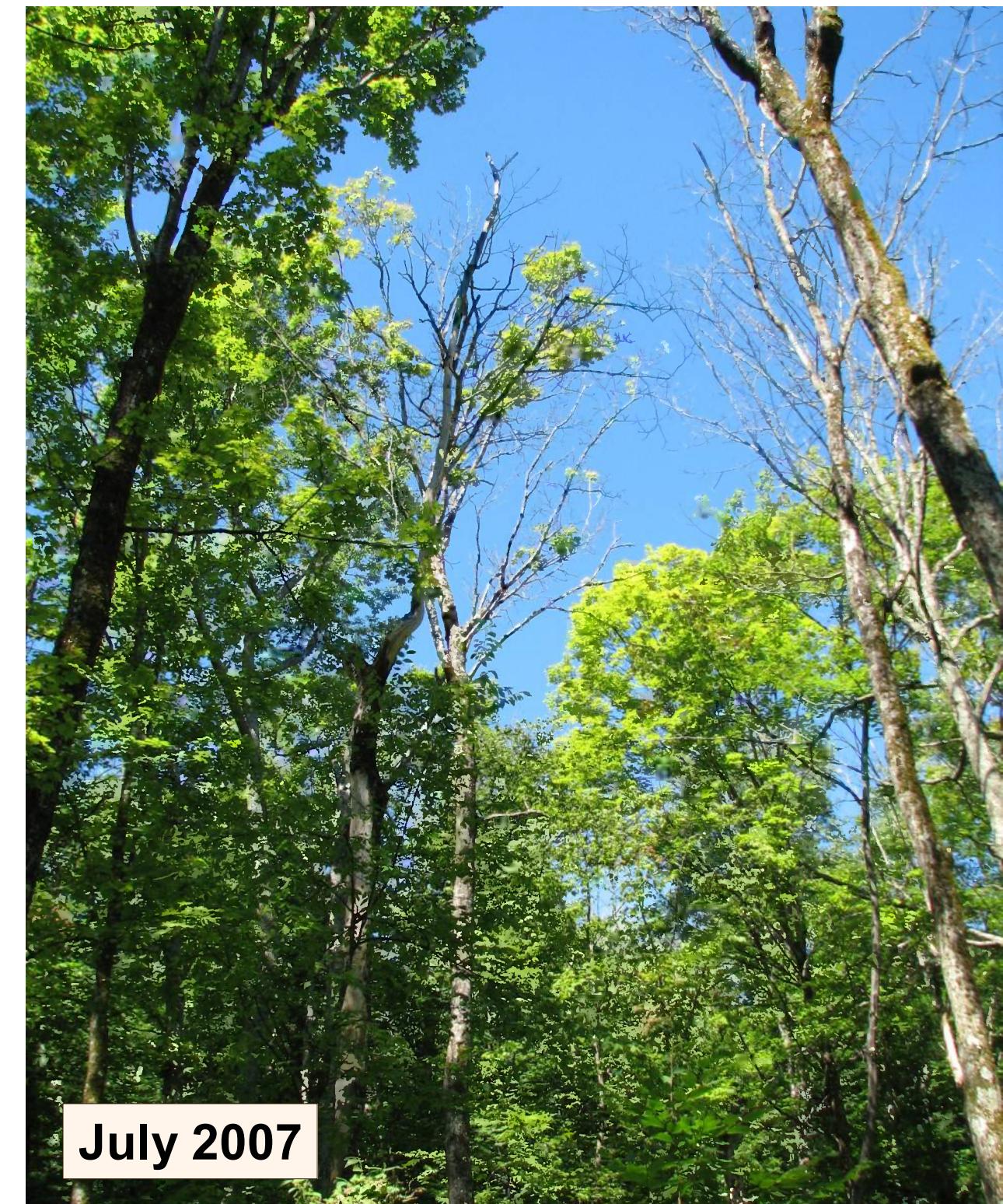
... had similar levels of mortality and transparency.



... but more dieback and lower starch reserves.



This evaluation concluded that maples which refoliated twice in 2004 were less healthy, but...



... affected trees began to recover the following year.

Their recovery did lag behind trees that refoliated only once.

So, trees don't "need" leaves...
.....for the entire growing season,
.....if the weather's favorable,
.....the site's good,
.....and it's just for one year.



¹. Forest Tent Caterpillar: *Malacosoma disstria* Hübner

². Sugarbush: A stand of sugar maples (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.) tapped for maple syrup production.

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